

RED TAIL FLYER

332d Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad Air Base, Iraq

Helicopters
bring healing



777EAS

Carrying the load

More stripes on base

12 Tech. Sgt. Hope Giger, 332d Expeditionary Medical Group patient administration division crew member and Staff Sgt. Michael Miller, 332d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and PAD volunteer, await the touchdown of a Black Hawk helicopter here Sunday to receive a shipment of blood platelets. The PAD is an integral part of the Air Force Intratheater Hospital as they receive and send off patients.



Photo by Senior Airman Kerry Solan-Johnson

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Sadly, I didn't learn the Air Force song until 2001, when I earned my chief master sergeant stripe. It wasn't taught at basic military training, during professional military education, or at any other venue I attended as I was coming up through the ranks.

12 PAD

Two helicopters cutting through the desert night can mean many things. To Airmen-medics gathered on the helipad of

Cover Story

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Triple sevens serve

On the west side of Balad, formations of burned-out, mangled humvee frames bake and bleach in the sun, their remnants so twisted they seem to writhe in their dusty graveyard.

For Lt. Col. Dan Dagher, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander, each bombed-out frame is an opportunity lost.

the Air Force Theater Hospital, it's how their shift begins.

13 Family: works of art

Families are fragile things. Some are very healthy and balanced; some, on the other hand, are imbalanced. A healthy family is not one without problems, but rather acknowledges problems, doesn't deny or cover them up, and works on them.

Weather outlook



Today
109/77



Saturday
110/76



Sunday
113/76



Monday
113/78



Tuesday
113/78



Wednesday
109/76



Thursday
107/74

THE WING COMMANDER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line.

The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332d AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are of general interest to the Balad Air Base population.

In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The action line can be reached via e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. People using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.



Photo by Senior Airman James Croxon

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc passes the 332d Expeditionary Operations Group guidon to Col. Scott Dennis during his change of command ceremony here Thursday.

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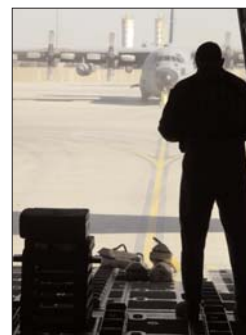
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Front page
photo by
**Airman 1st
Class Drew
Oquendo**

A loadmaster makes final preparations before the C-130 is sealed up for flight, story on pages 14-15.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Drew Oquendo

An Airman in every Pod

Joined by several chiefs and field grade officers, the 332d Expeditionary Services Squadron was assisted the last two weekends in building bed space for up to 360 people and delivering wall lockers to newly constructed T and U Pods. Limited only by the avail-

ability of tools and bolts, up to 81 Airmen voluntarily participated in the effort each day.

The overall objective is to eliminate lodging in tents here, and enable surge capacity during rotations by using bunk beds and allowing POD residents to rotate

in place with their replacements.

The first phase will move the aircrew from the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and the Guard and Reserve units out of the tents. Leaving them empty as surge space, the tents will remain until more Pods are con-

structed and bunk beds are placed in each.

The second phase will begin as two more sections of Pods are constructed to house more than 300 332d Expeditionary Medical Group personnel, moving them from H4 to H6.

Valuing traditions, customs key to military culture

by Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark
332d Air Expeditionary Wing Command Chief

Sadly, I didn't learn the Air Force Song until 2001, when I earned my chief master sergeant stripe. It wasn't taught at basic military training, during professional military education, or at any other venue I attended as I was coming up through the ranks.

It wasn't considered important for enlisted folks to sing it. It wasn't until a former security force chief of mine, Chief Master Sgt. Steve Sullens, then the 7th Air Force command chief master sergeant (now the chief of the Air Force Senior Leadership Management Office Chief's Group) and a heck of a great chief, taught me to do it with other selectees at our promotion party. He

scrambled the words to the song and had us arrange them in the correct order and sing it.

I thought it was a silly exercise until he explained that like the Marine Corps and the Army, we have traditions and customs we should all embrace to show our pride and identity. We should share that pride and identity with our troops to carry on the strength of our service throughout the generations.

He said being the flag bearer of tradition is just one example of the way the NCOs, senior NCOs and chiefs give back to the enlisted corps; pride is the very fiber of our commitment to serve.

I have sung the Air Force Song at commander's calls; I even learned the Army song when I served with 145 Soldiers who

were integrated into the squadron. We sang both songs and it made a difference in everyone's step and professionalism.

When OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM began, I was on the ground with 39 of the first defenders to arrive at a place we had not been before. After we were briefed on the operation, we sang the Air Force Song in an old Yugoslavian-built underground bunker. The tired and scared looks in their eyes from thoughts of themselves and aircraft being shot at while they set up a bare base vanished, and they laid 38 kilometers of barriers and wire, and built 23 fighting positions within two weeks of their arrival.

Now we sing the Air Force Song here as we carry on the traditions of the Airmen who have come before us.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Drew Oquendo

Preflight

Senior Airman Kevin Southworth, a crew chief assigned to the 332d Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, helps Lt. Col. Alex Calicchio, 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, strap into an F-16 June 10.



Courtesy photo



Silent Hero

The silent hero this week is Staff Sgt. Lawrence Vaden, an investigator with the Law and Order detachment at Balad Air Base. Sergeant Vaden promotes good order and discipline through enforcement of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Army and Air Force regulations and instructions. Also, he leads raids to uncover evidence indicating criminal activity. As the interim president of the Red Tail 5/6 Council, he ensures technical and staff sergeants gain professional development and leave a legacy of achievement during this deployment.

NEWS FROM AROUND IRAQ

Coalition, Iraqi forces deal blows to terrorists

BAGHDAD, Iraq (June 10, 2006) – Although Coalition and Iraqi security forces dealt a severe blow to terrorism June 7 when al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al Zarqawi was killed in a Coalition air strike, a senior Coalition forces leader said the fight against terrorism here continues.

“It’s very important for everybody to understand, the elimination of Zarqawi is not going to stop the violence here in Iraq,” said Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, Multi-National Force - Iraq spokesman during an operational update briefing June 9. “It is an important step forward, it’s a big one, but at the same time, we still have some tough times ahead of us.”

Although there may be tough times ahead, the general said Coalition and Iraqi security forces will continue to assess and exploit information and take the necessary actions to degrade terrorist operations in Iraq.

MNF-I Commanding General, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., announced the death of al-Zarqawi June 8 during a press conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad.

Casey said tips and intelligence from Iraqi senior leaders from al-Zarqawi’s own network led forces to the al-Qaida leader and some of his associates who were conducting a meeting in a safe house about five miles north of Baqubah.

According to U.S. Air Force officials, two F-16s dropped two precision-guided 500-pound bombs on the hideout, destroying it and killing al-Zarqawi and his associates.

Although news this week centered on the death of al-Zarqawi, Coalition and Iraqi security forces continue to thwart terrorist operations throughout Iraq.

On June 7, Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and members of the Iraqi security forces discovered three weapons caches in the areas surrounding Kirkuk, Iraq.

Soldiers from the 1st Brigade’s 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment received a report from Iraqi police in the village of Laylan of three men in a black car hiding a mortar system in a culvert on the side of a road outside the northern city of Kirkuk.

The police secured the cache, consisting of the mortar system and four rounds, until a demolition team arrived on-site to dispose of the material.

The men stashing the system escaped before



Maj. Ali Mahoud Abbas, left, commander, 5th Special Company, 1st Brigade, 9th Division, chats with local Iraqi police officers who operate in his sector. Abbas' work and his relationships with people to secure the region is seen by many as key to stabilizing the country.

the police arrived at the scene.

In two similar incidents, two bags filled with rockets were discovered southwest of Kirkuk after a local resident provided information of the cache to the Iraqi army, and yet a third cache, consisting of 12 mortar rounds and an artillery round, was discovered northwest of the city.

Citizens, growing confident in the capability of their own security forces, continue to come forward with information on the whereabouts of weapons caches, as well as terrorists in the region.

In another operation June 6, Coalition forces destroyed a truck used by terrorists to attack a patrol base southwest of Baghdad.

Four terrorists fired two 82 mm mortar rounds at the patrol base and left the scene, passing Coalition Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, who engaged the terrorists, wounding one.

After the terrorists fled the vehicle, Coalition Soldiers approached the truck and discovered a sniper scope, a mortar system, three AK-47s, two satchels containing unidentifiable ordnance, and two racks with four AK-47 magazines each.

Coalition forces destroyed the terrorists' vehicle to prevent future use in terrorist attacks and to send a clear message that this type of activity will not be tolerated.

There were no reported injuries to Coalition forces personnel or damage to their equipment.

Government of Iraq , MNF-I release more than 220

BAGHDAD, Iraq – In the spirit of unity and reconciliation, the Government of Iraq and Multi-National Force - Iraq in a joint initiative released more than 220 security detainees June 11 from Coalition- run Theater Internment Facilities.

Vice President Tariq Al-Hashimi addressed the security detainees at Abu Ghraib Theater Internment Facility telling them, “You are entering a different world; you must give the government a chance and become productive members of society.”

This release is part of a Government of Iraq plan to release 2,500 security detainees in the month of June, and will be accomplished through a series of 200 – 500 person releases throughout the month.

The Iraqi Government has approved the release of those not guilty of serious, violent crimes such as bombing, torture, kidnapping and murder.

The detainees must renounce violence and pledge to be good citizens of Iraq. The decision to release is an acknowledgment by the Government of Iraq and MNF-I of the importance of progress toward democratic governance and the rule of law in a new Iraq.

NEWS BRIEFS

Airmen now able to check data theft list

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – All active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen can check the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> to see if their personal data was compromised in the Veterans Administration data theft.

This is an additional effort on behalf of the Air Force to ensure affected Airmen are aware their information was compromised. For the latest information on this issue and for more information on how to protect against identity theft, visit <http://www.firstgov.gov>.

Logon

PKI, CAC, or Smart Card Logon for Intranet and Internet access will take effect on Thursday. Starting then, Airmen will have to use your CAC and PIN when using Internet Explorer. If you have not set up your logon using this secure method by then, you will not be able to access the 332 EAW Intranet web-sites or the Internet websites.

You will still be able to access your E-Mail and the shared drives. If you haven't registered your CAC yet, contact your Computer

Support Administrator (CSA) for assistance. If you need to have your CAC PIN reset you can do it at the PERSCO office and the Communications Squadron.

Selective re-enlistment changes for 14 AFSCs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials have announced changes to the selective re-enlistment bonus program.

A message from Headquarters Air Force, dated May 24, indicated changes to the program for 14 Air Force Specialty Codes. Those changes follow a thorough review of the SRB program, and are part of the Air Force's ongoing force-shaping effort, the message said.

Changes were made to the following selective re-enlistment bonuses:

Added, effective June 1:

1C6X1, Zone A, 2.0 (space systems operations)

1N2X1, Zone A, 2.0 (communications signals intelligence production)

3E9X1, Zone A, 1.5; Zone B, 1.0; Zone C, 1.0 (readiness)

3P0X1A/B, Zone A, 2.0 (security forces)

4J0X2, Zone A, 1.0 (physical medicine)

Reduced, effective July 1:

1A2X1, Zone A, 2.5 (loadmaster)

1A3X1, Zone A, 3.5 (airborne communications and electronic systems)

1A4X1, Zone A, 2.0; Zone B, 2.0 (airborne battle management)

1C5X1D, Zone A, 3.0 (aerospace control and warning systems)

1N3X2A, Zone A, 4.5; Zone B, 4.0 (romance cryptologic linguist)

1N3X3A/D, Zone A, 4.5; Zone B, 4.0 (Slavic cryptologic linguist)

1W0X1, Zone B, 1.0 (weather)

9L0X0, Zone B, 5.0 (interpreter/translator)

Removed, effective July 1:

2E2X1, All (communication, network, switching and crypto systems)

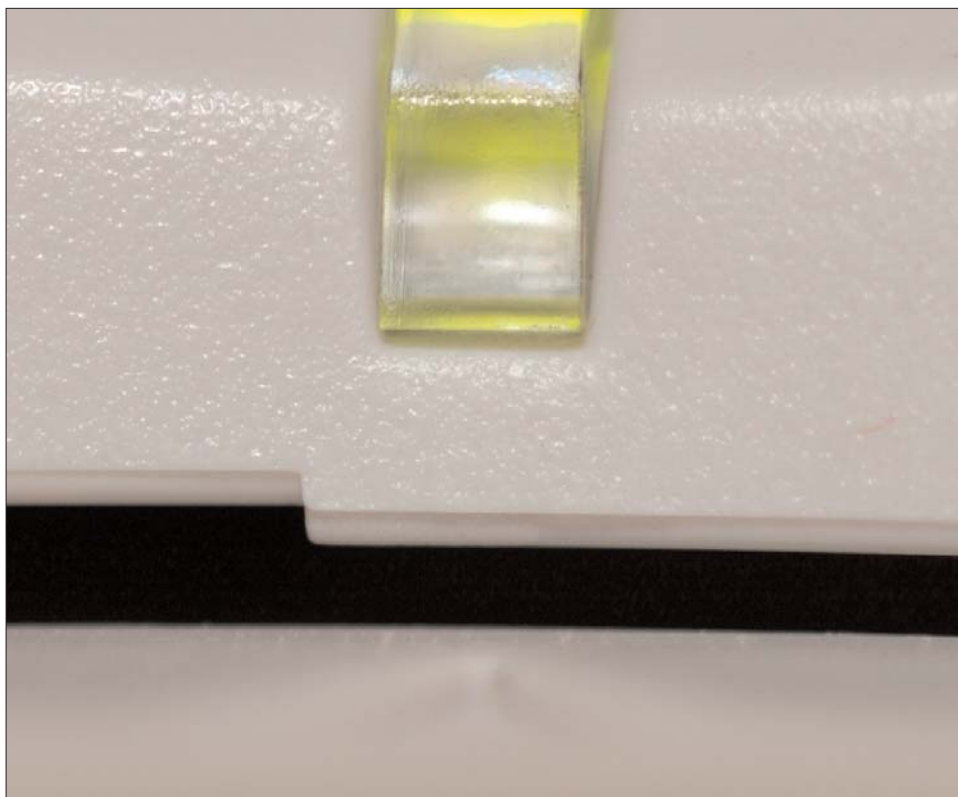
For more information on the SRB changes, contact the local military personnel flight re-enlistment office or visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site.



Eagle Eye Award

Tech. Sgt. Jason D. Sayre

The 332d Air Expeditionary Wing is proud to present the Eagle Eye Award to Tech. Sgt. Jason D. Sayre, 332d Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, for his effort on June 1. Sergeant Sayre discovered a foreign object in the cockpit of an F-16 aircraft while performing an egress final inspection.



Know what this is?

If you can identify this object, send an e-mail redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. Tech. Sgt. Christopher Jimenez was the first to correctly identify last week's picture; a bottle cap from a bottle of Balad water.



Proper precautions can prevent skin cancer

by Senior Airman Ticia Hopkins
347th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Air Force health officials are reminding Airmen that simple precautions during the summer can help lower the risk of skin cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1 million cases of non-melanoma skin cancers diagnosed yearly are considered to be sun-related.

While short-term overexposure can lead to sunburns, long-term effects can develop into wrinkles, freckles, age or liver spots, dilated blood vessels, leathery skin and possibly skin cancer, said Capt. Wendi Wohltmann, 38th Rescue Squadron aerospace flight surgeon here.

“No one is immune to skin cancer,” she said. “(and) sunburns increase your risk of it.”

In 2006, ACS officials said it is predicting more than 60,000 people to be diagnosed with melanoma skin cancers, with more than 7,000 of them resulting in death. Most skin cancers develop on the face, ears, neck, lips and even the back of the hands due to their exposure to the sun.

Melanoma skin cancer begins in the cells that produce coloring or pigment. These cells are actually used to protect the skin’s deeper layers from the sun’s harmful effects.

While melanoma is curable if caught early and is only a small percentage of annual skin cancers, it causes the most deaths.

When it comes to skin cancer, several risk factors come into play:

- Family history
- Fair complexion
- Multiple atypical moles
- Unprotected or excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation
- Occupational exposures to coal, tar, pitch, creosote or arsenic compounds
- Severe sunburns as a child

“There are two different factors (relating to skin cancer),” the captain said. “One is the genetic component, and then there’s sun exposure. So, (even) if it doesn’t run in your family, you can still get it from sun exposure.

“The most damaging sun exposure leading to skin cancer happens before the age of 18,” Captain Wohltmann said. “It’s because children are not protected (with sunscreen) and they are not taught proper sun-protection methods.”

Captain Wohltmann recommends children wear hats, sun-protective clothing and sunscreen. She also recommends the same things for anyone who must be exposed to the sun for long periods, whether it’s work-related or recreational.

Although skin cancer affects more people every year, there are ways to prevent this disease and still enjoy everyday activities, especially during the summer.

“No matter what your skin type, you should still be wearing sunscreen,” Captain Wohltmann said. “People with (darker skin tones may) take longer to burn, but they can still burn.”

Even though skin cancer is preventable, early detection can also help save lives.

“If you’re already (sun) damaged, then it’ll

help you from getting further damaged,” Captain Wohltmann said. “You can never start too late.”

Quarterly assignment listing available in July

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing, or EQUAL, will be available July 11 for Airmen returning from overseas and for continental United States mandatory movers from November through January 2007.

Airmen need to work through their military personnel flight or their commander’s support staff to update their preferences by July 27. Deployed Airmen must work with their PER-SCO representative to update assignment preferences. Airmen will be notified of their selection by mid-August, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials.

EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements, by Air Force specialty code and rank. Airmen should review, prioritize and update their assignment preferences based on the EQUAL list.

Airmen can view the list via the Assignment Management System on the AFPC secure Web site or at local military personnel flights.



Research lab tests fuel-efficient, flying-wing aircraft

Researchers are testing a 21-foot wingspan prototype of the X-48B, a blended wing body aircraft, at the full scale wind tunnel at NASA’s research center at Langley Air Force Base, Va. The Air Force Research Laboratory partnered with Boeing Phantom Works and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to study the structural, aerodynamic and operational advantages of the advanced aircraft concept. (NASA photo/Jeff Caplan)

WEEKLY UNIFORM DOS AND DON'TS

Do

Don't



All Airmen must have the physical training uniform shorts worn without the waste band rolled as Senior Airman Angela Crissup is demonstrating in the photo to the right. Rolled shorts are not permitted. Additional guidelines can be found in 332d Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance Standards*, section 2.



57 Airmen to get new stripe in Iraq

The Tuskegee Wing had 103 technical sergeant selects and 54 master sergeant selects who were notified they were to be promoted in the coming months based upon the promotion increment number they received. Though past performance plays a part in the Weighted Airman Promotion System through EPRs and decorations, it is important to note that these NCOs and future SNCOs are being promoted not based upon their performance in the past, but on their potential to accept and discharge additional responsibility. Another key thing to keep in mind whenever NCOs are promoted is that AFI 36-2618, Enlisted Force Structure, has specific responsibilities that they must match their performance up against as they step up to higher and higher responsibility and leadership opportunities. As NCOs get promoted they don't just get a bigger paycheck they get bigger responsibilities to shoulder and further develop their leadership acumen.

I personally can't think of a better place to be promoted. Right where leadership is needed most -- as a Warrior in the Central Command Area of Responsibility. Bringing Combat Airpower for America, Right Here, Right Now or as I like to put it "Puttin' Warheads on Foreheads."

--Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark
332d AEW Command Chief

103 Promoted to Technical Sergeant

332d Air Expeditionary Wing

Charles M. Evelo	EAMXS
Steven E. Gander	EAMXS
James P. Richey	EAMXS
Delbert Schoonover	EAMXS
Ronald C. Weafer Jr.	EAMXS
Devan J. Churnoski	ECES
Angela R. Foster	ECES
Mario M. Gonzalez	ECES
Clifford C. Monroe	ECES
Marla C. Rubin	ECES
James C. Schwenk Jr.	ECES
James F. Tracy	ECES
Altamese D. Laudor	ECS
Michelle D. Tanner	ECS
Lawrence E. Settes	ECS
Ruth N. Alverson	ELRS
James W. Greene Jr.	ELRS
Carl F. Kovalchick	ELRS
Joseph S. Layman	ELRS
James D. Moss	ELRS
Christopher Sones	ELRS
Timothy L. Wolberg	ELRS
Joseph A. Haray	EMDG
Michael C. Tharp	EMDG
Eddy A. Wells	EMDG
Herby W. Black	EMXS
Harold G. Denetelli	EMXS
David W. Foote Jr.	EMXS

Christopher Howeth	EMXS
David L. Lenzie	EMXS
Joshua R. Buck	EOSS
Joseph A. Harbin	EOSS
Jodi L. Signorino	EOSS
Darin R. Pierce	ESFS
Rafe R. Rice	ESFS
Marty J. Branch	ESVS
Karen D. Mosley	ESVS
Jason L. Hagy	727 EACS
Amanda Jones	727 EACS
Todd M. White	727 EACS
Joshua P. Nall	732 EMSG
Amy L. Moose	777 EAMU
Shawn C. Ogden	777 EAMU
Darrell R. Forbes	777 EAS
Christopher Hester	777 EAS
Stephen J. Morrow	777 EAS
Nicole H. Porter	777 EAS
Floyd A. Breedlove	CJSOAC
Lloyd N. Allison	DET 3
Francis Watermolen	ELRS DET 3
Gregory A. Bajoris	JSOAD
Juan A. F. Gonzalez	JSOAD
Michael C. Barnes	JSOAD
Adrian T. Bergman	JSOAD
Norris R. Crume	JSOAD
David Loren Couch	JSOAD
Joel T. Plichta	JSOAD
James D. Schuster	JSOAD
Angela M. Banks	JSOAD

407th Air Expeditionary Group

David J. Atkinson	EOSS
Nicholas M. Conner	ELRS
Scott A. Davis	EOSS
Mario A. Dominguez	AEG
Jeffrey K. Fairlie	ELRS
Darren J. Frazier	ECS
Mark J. Harmonosky	ECES
John R. Keller	ECES
Jay A. Keough	ESFS
Joseph H. Lankford	ELRS
Justin D. Majors	ESFS
Alfredo Mier	ELRS
Buck B. Saffo	ELRS

447th Air Expeditionary Group

Norman A. Williams	ECES
Robert D. Morris	MNF-I
Daniel J. Wessman	ELRS
Lucas E. Mccullough	MNT-
Jonathan D. Jones	MNC-I
Angela M. Banks	4 EASOG
Ronald D. Hom Jr.	AEG
Brian S. Kravitz	ELRS
Jo A. Hartsopretty	4EASOG
Vincent Delorenzo	4EASOG
Herby W. Black	MNT-
Andres Raymundo Jr.	AEG
Jonathan Reynolds	ELRS

506th Air Expeditionary Group

Carlos M. Bosch	ECES
Steven P. Rector	ECES
Bryan L. Deal	ECS
Jonathan B. Summer	ECS
Jil Shackleford	EMEDS
Jennifer L. Nuy	EOSS
Rickie L. Ayres	ESFS
Maria E. Lloyd	ESVS
Lance D. Andrews	AMMO
Micheal John King	PERSCO
Donald H. Mills	ECONS

732nd Air Expeditionary Group

Christoph Ammerman	EMSG
Mark L. Farmer	ECES
Jeri K. Goff	EMSG
Branden K. Hong	ESS
Ronald Horn Jr.	EMSG
George D. Howell	EMSG
Joshua P. Nall	EMSG
Craig T. Newman	557 ERHS
Adam L. Parks	ECES
Michelle Stone	ESS

54 Promoted to Master Sergeant

332d Air Expeditionary Wing

Wesley D. Priddy	AEW
Polly A. Oetting	EAMDS
Joseph E. Cayler	EAMXS
Robert W. Rafferty	EAMXS
James E. Goddard	ECES
Talmadge W. Markham	ECES
Mark D. Morgan Jr.	ECES
Harold L. Singleton	ECES
Patrick B. Wrathell	ECES
Larry A. Moorehouse	ECS
Robert J. Warren	ECS
David W. Edwards	ELRS
Mary C. Nadeau	EMDSS
Moria C. Saack	EMSG
Walter J. Anderson	EMXS
David A. Wedow	EMXS
Brian P. Phillips	EOSS
Daniela F. Rabickow	EOSS
Jerry T. Rotton	EOSS
Gregg S. Judy	421 ESFS
William L. Newman	727 EACS
Jason R. Oud	727 EACS
Andrew Hydro	ELRS DET 4
Matthew K. Stearns	EOSS DET 5
Jeffrey D. Hale	JSOAC
Taylor S. Jennings	JSOAD
Giovanni Miller	JSOAD
Richard A. Stear	JSOAD

407th Air Expeditionary Group

Kimberley Alvarez	AEG
Patrick O. Glass	ECES
Warren Mccullough	AEG

447th Air Expeditionary Group

Timothy L. Grant	MNF-I
Timothy E. Legg	EOSS
Florentino Gamboa	ECS
Gary T. Evans	EMEDS
Troy D. Ordiway	ESFS
Jason A. Hall	ESVS
Kenneth T. Bergmann	1 CTCS
Alan S. Williams	MNC-I
Adrian D. Hines	MNC-I

506th Air Expeditionary Group

John Avila III	ECES
Robert W. Duck	EMDES
Dwayne Adams	EOSS
Matthew M. Boerger	EOSS
Paul P. Bryant	ESFS
Kerry Westerfield	ESFS
Michael P. White	ESFS
Gerardo Amezola	ESVS

732nd Air Expeditionary Group

Kenneth T. Bergmann	EMSG
Daniel K. Hall	EMSG
Christian K. Hodges	EMSG
Kendall L. Lee	557 ERHS
Troy D. Ordiway	EMSG
Mary B. Quenga	EMSG
Rick J. Rettig	EMSG
Keith A. Smith	EMSG

Desert surprise for Father's Day

by 2nd Lt. Lisa L. Kostellic
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

When Air Force Tech. Sgt. Donald E. Scott sent an e-mail to his son saying he was in Balad, the 721st Aircraft Maintenance Operations Group support flight and supply noncommissioned officer here never expected a surprise visit a few weeks later.

Army Sgt. Michael A. Cruz has been deployed with the Iraqi Assistance Group at the Phoenix Academy in Taji, Iraq, since August 2005. After receiving his father's e-mail, he told his supervisor that his dad was here in Iraq. Sergeant Cruz's supervisor arranged for him to accompany an Army captain to Balad in search of supplies for transition team Humvees.

Sunday evening, while Sergeant Scott was getting ready for another night shift, he heard a knock at the door.

"I thought it was somebody else. I opened the door, and there he was out there, staring right at me," Sergeant Scott said.

After joining the Army in 2002, Sergeant Cruz said he

“

I thought it was somebody else. I opened the door, and there he was, out there, staring right at me”

– **Tech. Sgt. Donald Scott,**
721st Aircraft Maintenance Operations Group

”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Tolley

Army Sgt. Michael A. Cruz (right) helps his father, Tech. Sgt. Donald E. Scott, stack M-16s for storage. Sergeant Scott works on the flightline with the 721st Aircraft Maintenance Operations Group. Sergeant Cruz, part of the Iraqi Assistance Group in Taji, is on a short mission to Balad, which resulted in a surprise Father's Day visit for Sergeant Scott.

hasn't gone home to Charleston. Sergeant Scott is the first family member he's seen in four years.

"That is my fault because when you're 18 to 20 years old (and) in the Army, I had two choices to make: go home, where I just came from (all my life), or travel around and do stuff."

Sergeant Cruz chose to travel, supporting different missions, honing his skills as a soldier and eventually reaching his goal to make E-5 ahead of the curve.

When Sergeant Cruz wasn't traveling with different missions, he managed the armory at Fort Sill, Okla.

"At the armory, I didn't have a secondary (person to help) so getting home was really, really

hard. Every time I got a secondary, they would leave because they got orders," Sergeant Cruz said.

Sergeant Cruz said he planned to go home after his deployment and didn't expect to be a 30 minute helicopter ride away from his dad.

Sergeant Scott said during his 22-year career he has deployed more times than he can count. He has been to countries all over the Middle East which meant being away from his family often. Sergeant Cruz said having a deployed dad is something that he's used to because his biological father was with the Army Special Forces.

"If your dad's not gone 90 percent of the year, there's something's wrong," said

Sergeant Cruz with a chuckle.

When Sergeant Scott married Sergeant Cruz's mother five years ago, the father and son welcomed their new relationship, but they didn't have much to talk about. After four years in the Army, Sergeant Cruz said he can now relate more to what his stepdad does every day.

The father and son have until the end of the week together, and they've been playing catch up whenever they can. When asked what he thought of his son after a few days of getting reacquainted, Sergeant Scott had only one thing to say.

"He's grown up. He's a man now," said Sergeant Scott.

Sergeant Cruz returns home in July and Sergeant Scott returns in September.

If you feel you have been sexually assaulted, call the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 443-7272.





Photos by Senior Airman James Croxon

An Army HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter waits on the Air Force Theater Hospital helipad. Choppers like this bring injured servicemembers, coalition forces and local Iraqis in and out of the hospital almost every day.

PAD to patient movement

by Senior Airman James Croxon
332d Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Two helicopters cutting through the desert night can mean many things here in Iraq. To Airmen-medics gathered out on the helipad of the Air Force Theater Hospital, it's how their shift begins.

"This is how almost every night starts," Senior Airman Tyrrone McNease yells over the noise. "The choppers usually come in pairs, always at night. To me the sound means a patient is leaving to go someplace better. It's a kind of closure."

Airman McNease is an instructor with the 332d Expeditionary Medical Group's Patient Administrative Division, Balad Air Base, Iraq. He is the primary night shift trainer for the hospital staff and volunteers.

"Volunteers are great. Each night we get about half-dozen," he said. "Some of them are here each and every day."

Staff Sgt. Michael Miller, a weapons loader assigned to the 332d Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron said he's at the hospital every chance he gets. "If I don't have to be at work, I'm here," he said.

Volunteers are always needed. In the past month more than 250 helicopters landed at the hospital, transporting more than 100 patients each week.

This night two patients are leaving. They are detainees who were wounded while attacking coalition forces. The hospital provides treatment to anyone the choppers or ambulances bring in — even those responsible for much of the trauma.

The choppers also bring in patients as often as they take them out. Minutes after the detainees leave, the patient administration division received notice that a chopper is due in and they prepare for the unexpected.

"We rarely know ahead of time what we will see when the chopper lands," Airman McNease said. "Improvised explosive devices, gunshots, children, I've seen all of them and I've only been here a month. Back in the emergency room at Lackland (Air Force Base, Texas) we might see these kinds of injuries once a month — we see them here every week."

The one predictable thing in the patient administration division is the constant movement of patients. However, once in awhile, a patient arrives that surprises even these Airmen.

"I remember a few weeks ago we were waiting for a chopper to come in. When it landed, the patient wasn't human," Airman McNease said.

"Apparently a military working dog was wounded on duty. We put him on a stretcher and took him to the vet. He got a flight out too," Airman McNease said.

The division's impact on the lives of the patients is direct and immediate.

They are the entry and exit point for healing. And every little bit of attention means a lot to the men, women and children cared for at the hospital.

"I remember when a Sri Lankan worker came in with IED blast injuries," Sergeant Miller said. "He looked nervous and couldn't communicate with us so I held his hand. As he calmed down he looked at me as if to say, 'thank you.'"



"Improvised explosive devices, gunshots, children, I've seen all of them and I've only been here a month. Back in the emergency room at Lackland (Air Force Base, Texas) we might see these kinds of injuries once a month — we see them here every week."

- Senior Airman Tyrrone McNease, PAD instructor

Family individual works of art

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Stan Giles
332d Air Expeditionary Wing

The story is told of a young boy assigned to write a theme paper for school. His subject was his own family and so with pencil in hand he decided to start at the very beginning by asking his mother, "Mom, how was I born?" The mother, hoping to delay that subject as long as possible, simply replied, "The stork brought you."

He then moved into the living room and asked his grandmother how his mother was born. Being of the Victorian age she was not about to touch that subject and so likewise she replied, "The stork brought her!" He persisted, "What about you?" "The stork brought me too," she said.

He dutifully thanked her, returned to the kitchen table, and began his paper with these words: "There hasn't been a normal birth in our family for three generations!"

Families are fragile things. Some are very healthy and balanced; some, on the other hand, are imbalanced often referred to as "dysfunctional." Most families seem to fall somewhere in between. And here's the rub. Living in an

imperfect world with imperfect parents (and children), it stands to reason our families are going to be imperfect. Therefore, a healthy family is not one without problems (imperfections), but rather, a healthy family is one that acknowledges problems, doesn't deny or cover them up, and works on them. That's it! Nothing astonishing about that concept.

In a sense each family is an art form. A unique, one-of-a-kind creation. Let me offer five observations about these "art forms." First, these art forms require patience for they are never static and are always changing. They don't stay "on a schedule" and this is often hard for us to accept. Secondly, these art forms require acceptance, for like a sculptor who is given a specific piece of marble, we cannot trade in our pieces of art for another. We cannot change families, therefore

love and acceptance is mandated.

Thirdly, these art forms require skill.

Becoming a parent is not that hard. In fact, even immature people have babies every day. But being a parent is taxing, requiring all the skill and maturity we can muster. Fourthly,

these family art forms require love. Good art is created not out of duty, but out of devotion.

Finally, our families demand time. Both in quality and quantity. You can't microwave a family or have one delivered. Each family takes years and decades to grow.

May God help each of us with our pieces of art!



Balad Religious Schedule

Providing Combat Ministry, Right Here, Right Now!

Protestant Services

Sunday

10 a.m. Traditional Service
11 a.m. Contemporary Service
2 p.m. Church of Christ
2 p.m. Gospel Service
3:30 p.m. Orthodox Prayer Service
5 p.m. Traditional Service
7 p.m. Latter Day Saints Sacraments
7:30 p.m. Traditional Service
8 p.m. Latter Day Saints Sunday School

New Liturgical Services:

Beginning June 7

8 a.m. Liturgical Morning Prayer

Beginning June 3

7 p.m. Liturgical Service

AFT Hospital Chapel
Town Hall
Tuskegee Chapel
AFT Hospital Chapel
Tuskegee Chapel
Tuskegee Chapel
Tuskegee Chapel
AFT Hospital Chapel
Tuskegee Chapel

Tuskegee Chapel

Tuskegee Chapel

Catholic Services

Daily Mass

7 p.m. Monday through Friday
(Come a few minutes early for confession)

Saturday

4:45 p.m. Reconciliation

5 p.m. Mass

Sunday

9 a.m. Sunday Mass

11 a.m. Sunday Mass

Tuskegee Chapel

Tuskegee Chapel

Tuskegee Chapel

Tuskegee Chapel

AFT Hospital Chapel

For more information on this or other worship opportunities or needs, call the Tuskegee Chapel at 443-7703.

Hercules' Labors

777TH EAS MOVES C-130S IN FIRST ROLE AT FORWARD-DEPLOYED BASE

By Senior Airman Kerry Solan-Johnson
332d Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

On the west side of Balad, formations of burned-out, mangled humvee frames bake and bleach in the sun, their remnants so twisted they seem to writhe in their dusty graveyard.

"You can still see blood in some of them," said Lt. Col Dan Dagher, shaking his head.

For Colonel Dagher, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander, each bombed-out frame is a lost opportunity.

"The risk of us flying and carrying that cargo is a lot less than the risk of some Army unit trying to survive the roads of Iraq," the colonel said.

The 777th EAS's primary mission, convoy reduction, fills a critical role in a combat zone where improvised explosive devices steal the lives of most military members killed in combat.

Army Master Sgt. Gary Boda, 181st Transportation Battalion operations noncommissioned officer in charge, said with most Army companies traveling more than one million miles outside the wire during their rotation here, the 777th EAS's mission is appreciated.



"Some of these convoys travel as far as 397 miles," Sergeant Boda said. "Anytime you can take a 20-truck convoy off the roads, that's good."

In the C-130's first role in a forward deployment, it also has the missions of cargo drops and movement, distinguished visitor airlift, detainee transport, aeromedical evacuations, troop transport and transport of those fallen in combat.

"It eliminates the need for other aircraft to (fly) from other locations and make a two to three-hour flight," Colonel Dagher said. "It's more efficient for us to make the 20-minute legs out to forward air bases."

The monstrous appetite for their missions (seven a day) is fed by 15 six-man crews as well as a slew of maintainers, life support, flight medics and other support agencies, many of which are on their fifth or sixth deployment in three years.

"We're a total force — a mix of Guard

and active duty, young and old," Colonel Dagher said. "It works quite well."

The 777th EAS, or Dueling Dragons, fly twice the amount of missions of any other C-130 squadron in Southwest Asia, despite lacking two times the amount of maintainers or crew.

"Shifts can be grueling," said loadmaster Senior Airman Chris Withrow, deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

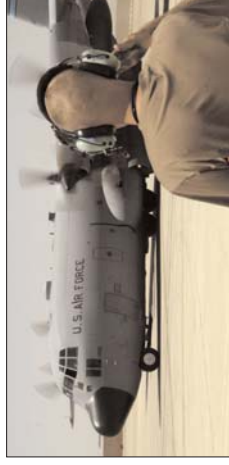
Crews work 14- to 18-hour shifts on a flightline so hot, it's described as "hell on pre-heat." Starting up the gray aluminum beast makes 120-degree temperatures 145 degrees during engine-running loads, which are designed to shorten ground time for the Hercules.

"It can get frustrating — the stress of the environment," said Staff Sgt. Steve Morrow, deployed from Little Rock AFB. But the stress isn't always the operations tempo or the temperature.

Flying in a combat zone, the C-130 is a large, slow-moving (and sometimes low-flying) target, which occasionally receives small arms, surface-to-air fire.

At low altitudes, loadmasters scan out the small windows of their Kevlar-padded stations, ready to drop flares to thwart incoming fire.

Despite the demand of their tasks, "these guys are out there working twice as hard to make these sorties happen," Colonel Dagher said. "They understand the motivation — people die when this cargo has to be conveyed."

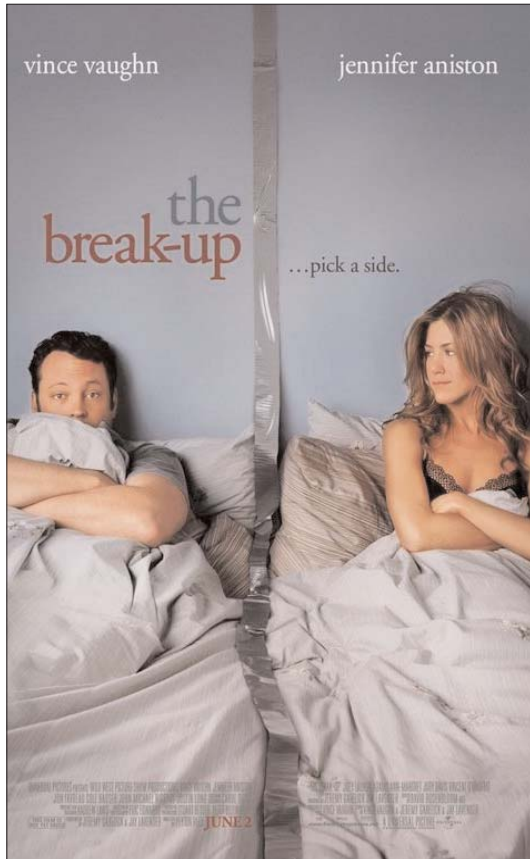


Left, Airman 1st Class James Stewart prepares for takeoff, scanning the ground, ready to release flares if his aircraft comes under fire. Top, an engineer reviews his checklist a final time before takeoff. Center top, 2nd Lieutenant Brian Miller checks the radios during pre-flight checks. Center bottom, a C-130 receives a salute from its crew chief as it taxis toward the runway for a mission. Above right, a loadmaster makes final preparations before the C-130 is sealed up for flight.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Andrew Osquendo



SUSTAINER MOVIE SCHEDULE



Today
 2 p.m. - Take the Lead
 5 p.m. - Lucky Number Slevin
 8:30 p.m. - The Break Up

Saturday
 11 a.m. - The Break Up
 2 p.m. - Lucky Number Slevin
 5 p.m. - The Break Up
 8 p.m. - Ice Age 2: The Meltdown

Sunday
 2 p.m. - The Break Up
 5 p.m. - Ice Age 2: The Meltdown
 8 p.m. - Take the Lead

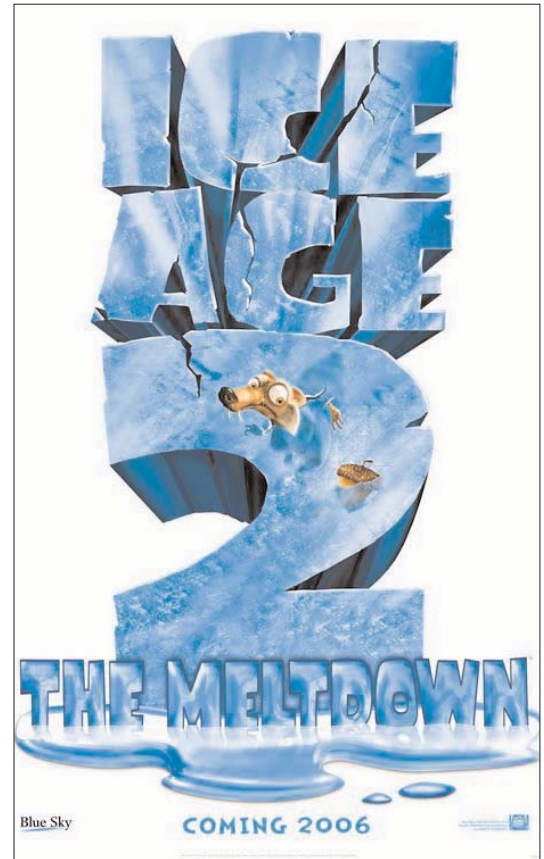
Monday
 5 p.m. - Lucky Number Slevin
 8 p.m. - The Break Up

Tuesday
 5 p.m. - Take the Lead
 8 p.m. - Ice Age 2: The Meltdown

Wednesday
 5 p.m. - The Break Up
 8 p.m. - Madea's Family Reunion

Thursday
 5 p.m. - Madea's Family Reunion
 8 p.m. - Ultraviolet

June 23
 2 p.m. - Benchwarmers
 5 p.m. - Phat Girlz
 8:30 p.m. - Cars



Movie Summaries

THE BREAK UP

Vince Vaughn, Jennifer Aniston

Pushed to the breaking-point after their latest, "why can't you do this one little thing for me?" argument, art dealer Brooke calls it quits with her boyfriend, Gary, who hosts bus tours of Chicago. What follows is a series of remedies, war tactics, overtures and underminings suggested by the former couple's friends, confidantes and the occasional total stranger. When neither ex is willing to move out of the condo they used to share, the only solution is to continue living as hostile roommates until somebody caves. Rated PG-13 (sexual content, nudity, language) 110 min

LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman

Set in New York City, a case of mistaken identity lands Slevin in the middle of a war being plotted by two of the city's most rival crime bosses: The Rabbi and The Boss. Slevin is under constant surveillance by relentless Detective Brikowski as well as the infamous assassin Goodkat and finds himself having to hatch his own ingenious plot to get them...before they get him. Rated R (strong violence, sexuality, language) 110 min

ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN

Ray Romano, John Leguizamo

The Ice Age is coming to an end, and the animals are delighting in the melting paradise that is their new world. Manny, Sid, and Diego quickly learn that the warming climate has one major drawback: a huge glacial dam is about to break, threatening the entire valley. The only chance of survival lies at the other end of the valley. Rated PG (mild language, innuendo) 90 min

TAKE THE LEAD

Antonio Banderas, Rob Brown

A former professional ballroom dancer volunteers at a New York public school to teach dance. The hip-hop instincts of his students soon clash with his ballroom methods, so he teams up with them to create a new style of dance. Eventually the students trust him and he becomes their mentor. Rated PG-13 (thematic material, language, violence) 108 min